



15TH DISTRICT 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

THANK YOU FOR THE HONOR OF REPRESENTING YOU!

Klickitat and Skamania counties



REP. BRUCE CHANDLER REP. DAVID TAYLOR
SEN. JIM HONEYFORD

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As you know, the 2010 census led to redistricting of our legislative districts. The result for the 15th Legislative District is dramatic, and it is with heavy hearts we report that we will no longer represent you. Beginning in January 2013, Klickitat and Skamania counties will be part of the 14th Legislative District. We want to express to you our sincere appreciation and pride of representing such a unique region of our state that has overcome many challenges.

The layoffs and complete closure of the Goldendale Aluminum Plant in 1999-2003 left hundreds of people looking for jobs and the economic viability of the community in jeopardy. The entire county pulled together and started building a new future. You took advantage of new opportunities to rebuild your regional economy with a new generation of businesses, like Insitu, all while maintaining the heart of the community and the backbone of the agriculture industry.

After a landslide in Stevenson, we worked with local officials to help provide state funding for cleanup. Before the state came in, community members were there and rallied to respond.

The gradual transition to wind energy and the placement of turbines in the region threatened to polarize communities. However, you showed you care enough about your home and this region to attend meetings and speak your mind. Despite the challenges and concerns, we believe these projects will provide a more stabilized tax base and bring further economic activity to the area.

A declining population has led to significant challenges for your school districts trying to provide the same level of education to the students remaining. In 2009, we passed legislation with the support of Lyle and Bickleton school districts to allow the smaller districts, with the desire and support, to use flexible schedules to maximize quality time in the classroom and adjust for sports competitions.

Together, we've been able to procure funding for the Carousel Museum in Bickleton, the Maryhill Museum, repair the flood-damaged diversion for the Hell Roaring Irrigation District, and work to get the Klickitat Mill site and the Goldendale tire pile cleaned up. The issues you have and continue to overcome by staying involved in your community have been an inspiration to us.

Over the years, we have honored history and achievement in the Gorge. In 2001, we honored the Trout Lake Grange on its 93rd Anniversary during National Grange Week. In 2007, the Legislature adopted a resolution recognizing the centennial establishment of White Salmon. In 2009, we honored Bickleton as the "Bluebird Capital of the World," and this year we observed the 100th anniversary of the Goldendale library.

One of the many bright spots in the region is the Goldendale Observatory – one of the nation's largest telescopes. We were honored to help provide funding to make improvements to the observatory and continue education about the cosmos to future generations. This was one of several times it was "fun" to represent you.

There have been several different water improvement needs – for public utility districts and cities. Just this year, we were pleased to support Senate Bill 6044, which allows any public utility districts bordering the Columbia River to supply water through pumped storage. This project offers a potential for significant economic development opportunities.

There is still unfinished business. The Hood River Bridge is in need of replacement. The first step was creating State Route 35 so the bridge could be considered part of the state highway system. There also continues to be a lack of complete compensation from the state for the loss of timber due to endangered species. The result of unusable land has hurt local governments and hampered economic growth.

We will be working closely with the 14th District representatives to get them up to speed on the challenges and uniqueness of the Gorge region. Though we will no longer officially represent you, we want you to know we will always consider you our friends and neighbors, and will continue to be accessible to you.

Thank you for the honor,

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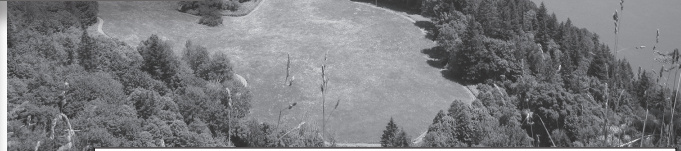
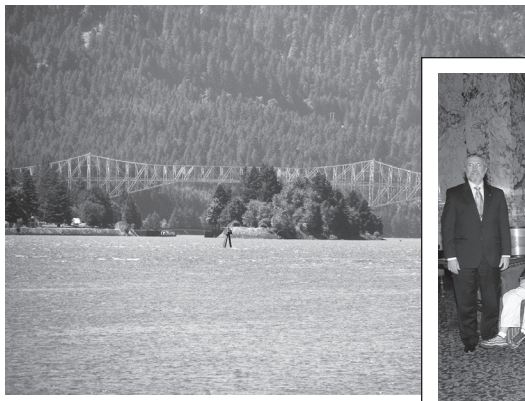
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